

Claims:

1. A combination square for use with a magnetic rule-type blade having top and bottom surfaces and at least one pair of opposite long edges, the combination
5 square comprising a magnetic housing for releasably magnetically retaining the blade in a blade retaining slot for subtending a 90° shoulder and/or a 45° shoulder with opposite side surfaces of said magnetic housing in a top view of the combination square laid flat on a planar support surface.
- 10 2. The square according to claim 1 for use with a grooved magnetic rule-type blade wherein said magnetic housing includes a runner for constraining the blade to sliding lengthwise movement within said blade retaining slot.
3. The square according to either one of claims 1 and 2 wherein said
15 magnetic housing includes a manually operated securing member for selectively bearing against the blade for frictionally securing the blade therein.
4. The square according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said magnetic
20 housing includes at least one magnet with a major surface parallel to the blade's top and bottom surfaces in a cross section of the combination square passing through a pair of the blade's at least one pair of opposite long edges.
5. The square according to claim 4 wherein said magnetic housing includes at
25 least one L-shaped cross section magnet with a major surface parallel to the blade's top and bottom surfaces in a cross section of the combination square passing through a pair of the blade's at least one pair of opposite long edges.
6. The square according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said magnetic
housing includes at least one magnet with a major surface perpendicular to the

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blade's top and bottom surfaces in a cross section of the combination square passing through a pair of the blade's at least one pair of opposite long edges.

7. The square according any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the blade has an L-shape with two pairs of opposite long edges in a top view of the combination square.

8. A combination square comprising a housing for releasably retaining an L-shaped rule-type blade with two pairs of opposite long edges in a blade retaining slot for subtending a 90° shoulder and/or a 45° shoulder with opposite side surfaces of said housing in a top view of the combination square laid flat on a planar support surface.

9. The square according to claim 8 wherein said housing is magnetic for magnetically retaining a magnetic rule-type blade in said blade retaining slot.

10. The square according to claim 9 wherein said magnetic housing includes a runner for use with a grooved magnetic rule-type blade for constraining same to sliding lengthwise movement within said blade retaining slot.

11. The square according to either one of claims 9 and 10 wherein said magnetic housing includes a manually operated securing member for selectively bearing against a magnetic rule-type blade for frictionally securing same therein.

12. The square according to any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein said magnetic housing includes at least one magnet with a major surface parallel to said blade's top and bottom surfaces in a cross section of the combination square passing through a pair of opposite long edges of said blade's two pairs of opposite long edges.

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13. The square according to claim 12 wherein said magnetic housing includes at least one L-shaped cross section magnet with a major surface parallel to said blade's top and bottom surfaces in a cross section of the combination square passing through a pair of opposite long edges of said blade's two pairs of opposite
5 long edges.

14. The square according to any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein said magnetic housing includes at least one magnet with a major surface perpendicular to said blade's top and bottom surfaces in a cross section of the combination square
10 passing through a pair of opposite long edges of said blade's two pairs of opposite long edges.